

Message Text

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40

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 L-03 NSC-07 AID-20

PC-04 CIEP-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /095 W

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P R 031300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4965

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3409

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU

SUBJECT ELECTIONS 1974: PRELIMINARY RETURNS

1. ELECTION RETURNS FROM THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL IN MANAGUA INDICATE AN EXTREMELY LOPSIDED VICTORY FOR THE NATIONALISTIC LIBERAL PARTY (PLN) AND ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA DEBAYLE. AT PRESENT SOMOZA AND HIS PARTY ARE WINNING BY A 20 TO 1 MARGIN. WITH ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS REPORTING, PRELIMINARY FIGURES RELEASED BY THE TRIBUNAL ELECTION NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 1 AT 11:00 P.M. SHOWED EDMUNDO PAGUAGA'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN-P) WITH 700 VOTES WHILE GENERAL SOMOZA'S PLN REGISTERED OVER 15,000. LATER AT NOON SEPTEMBER 2, PRELIMINARY TALLIES WITH ONLY 63,000 VOTERS OUT OF AN ANTICIPATED VOTE OF AROUND 800,000 SHOWED THE PCN-P WITH 3,000 VOTES TO THE PLN'S 61,000.

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2. THE ELECTION WAS OVER-ALL VERY PEACEFUL. NO INCIDENTS

WERE REPORTED IN MANAGUA AND NATIONWIDE APPARENTLY THERE WAS TROUBLE ONLY IN THE CITY OF MATAGALPA WHERE THE MAYOR'S RACE IS HOTLY CONTESTED. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL HAS SENT A TWO-MAN COMMISSION TO THAT CITY TO INVESTIGATE AND IN THE MEANTIME THE ELECTION PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED IN MATAGALPA.

3. THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT FOR THE PCN-P AT THIS POINT IS GRANADA WHERE IT APPEARS CERTAIN TO WIN THE RACE FOR MAYOR OF THAT CITY. MATAGALPA, HOWEVER, IS STILL A POSSIBILITY AND THERE ARE TWO OTHER SMALL CITIES WHERE THE PCN-P REPORTEDLY HAS A CHANCE TO WIN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

4. ALTHOUGH THE TRIBUNAL WILL PROBABLY RELEASE FURTHER PRELIMINARY FIGURES OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE FINAL TALLY IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL THE END OF THE WEEK. ALL INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE THAT THE PRESENT TREND WILL CONTINUE AND EDMUNDO PAGUAGA'S PCN-P WILL WIN ONLY ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF THE VOTE. SHELTON.

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